

**Assembly Bill No. 1478**

\_\_\_\_\_

Passed the Assembly August 31, 2006

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

\_\_\_\_\_

Passed the Senate August 30, 2006

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate*

\_\_\_\_\_

This bill was received by the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Private Secretary of the Governor*

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

An act to add Section 4435 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to developmental services.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1478, Frommer. Developmental services.

Existing law, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, establishes the State Department of Developmental Services and sets forth its duties and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the administration and oversight of the state developmental centers and programs relating to persons with developmental disabilities. Existing law requires the department to allocate funds to private nonprofit regional centers for the provision of community services and support for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

Existing law requires the department to develop evaluation and diagnostic procedures for the diagnosis of autism disorder and other autism spectrum disorders.

This bill would, in addition, require the department, in consultation with specified state departments, to develop guidelines for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders and to disseminate the information to parents.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4435 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

4435. (a) The department, in consultation with the State Department of Education, the Department of Managed Health Care, the Department of Insurance, the State Department of Health Services, the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Mental Health, one or more representatives of the regional centers, parents of children with autism, autism service advocacy organizations, and other agencies as appropriate, shall develop guidelines for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders in children that shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) An identification and description of the different types of interventions appropriate for autism spectrum disorders, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- (A) Speech and language therapy.
- (B) Behavioral therapy.
- (C) Play therapy.
- (D) Occupational therapy.
- (E) Psychotherapy.
- (F) Medication.
- (G) Tutoring.
- (H) Biomedical treatment.

(2) An identification of the types of interventions that would be recommended as best practices according to the age and the particular needs of the consumer, based on the type of autism spectrum disorder. To the extent possible, the guidelines shall build upon the work already undertaken by the department in producing its Autism Spectrum Disorders Best Practice Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis and Assessment.

(3) For each type of intervention, an identification or description of the type of provider of the service, indicating whether there are special licenses or certifications required of the service provider.

(4) For each type of intervention, an identification of the potential sources available to pay for the intervention, including private health insurance, public health coverage programs, special education, developmental center and regional center funding, other public funding, and private payment.

(b) In developing the guidelines, the department shall seek input from experts in a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Education.
- (2) Special education.
- (3) Mental health.
- (4) County health services.
- (5) Parents.
- (6) Speech and language therapists.
- (7) Occupational therapists.
- (8) Behavioral therapists.
- (9) Regional centers.
- (10) Health insurance.

(c) The department shall disseminate the information contained in the guidelines in ways that are designed to maximize its usefulness to parents seeking services for their children. Examples for dissemination may include development of a brochure that can be provided to parents and a poster that can be displayed by providers.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department be permitted to produce the guidelines authorized pursuant to this section, within the department's existing work on autism, provided there be a user-friendly format so that the guidelines are easy to understand for families seeking to find the most appropriate interventions for autism spectrum disorders.







Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2006

---

*Governor*